38. Means of communication in the Kottayam taluk.

MR. E. N. EIPE (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group I*) dealing with the means of communication in the Kottayam taluk, referred first of all to the Kottayam-Kumarakam road, which he said should be converted into a cartable road and extended to Vechoor. With the completion of the Illickal bridge, the construction of which had already been taken in hand, the conversion of the road into a cartable road would become very easy.

The member next urged for the construction of the following roads :—

(1) Kudayampadi-Kallumkathra road. This road would be but two miles in length and would be of immense utility to the public.

(2) Kallumkathra-Parippu road. This road which would be only about four furlongs in length would be of great use to the pupils attending the English school and the vernacular school at Olessa and to the public in general.

(3) A road to join the Veloor-Pulinakal road and the Aravupuzha-Kallupurakal road at their termini. At present the only connection between the two roads was somewhere about their middle. It was very necessary that they should be connected at the places where they terminated *viz.* Pulinakal and Kallupurakal. The connecting road would be only one and a half furlongs in length and it would be of great use.

(4) The Aimanam-Parippu road. This road was very low and would be submerged in water in the rainy season. The level of the road should be raised and it should be maintained properly.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Eipe, as regards the roads from Kudayampadi to Kallumkathra and Kallumkathra to Parippu, the Chief Engineer considers these as very useful ; but the road passes through low-lying country and will need very heavy embankments and it is a matter requiring careful investigation. The Chief Engineer will take up the question in the course of the year.

Then coming to improvement and conversion of the Ayimanam-Parippu road and Kumarakom road from Illikkal, the Chief Engineer says that until the bridges at Kallumadai, Thattangal and Parippu are widened there is no use in attending to that. Anyhow the Chief Engineer will make estimates. The work of the bridge at Illikkal has already been started. There is an estimate of Rs. 18,000 rupees sanctioned some 8 months ago and work has been started. Separate estimates are being prepared for converting other village roads into cart roads.

In regard to the third point, the Chief Engineer considers it necessary. It is only a furlong and a half and the cost will come to about Rs. 1,500. I will give instructions for its early completion.

39. Means of communication in North Travancore.

MR. DEVASIA VARKEY (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) said that the following steps should be taken immediately to provide adequate means of communication in North Travancore :—

(1) The construction of the Quilon—Ernakulam railway line should be started immediately. The suspension of all proceedings for the purpose after the completion of the survey had caused great disappointment to the people of north Travancore.

(2) Arrangements should be made at once for surveying the Ettumanur-Mundakayam railway line ; and

(3) Since there were several misgivings in the public mind about the railway policy of the Government, a statement should be issued at once in regard to the position of Government in the matter.

As regards the construction and maintenance of roads, the member said as follows :—

(1) Two or three culverts should be constructed on the Parolickal-Muttapalli road starting from the M. C. road, 102nd mile.

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